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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Executive Registry

2-5997

Noted by DGI

9 May 52 - lcc

Noted by D/DGI

13 May 52 LDB

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Dear [redacted]

With reference to your memorandum to the Board Members dated 24 April 1952, "Action Regarding Current Cold War Tactical Measures", I am in general agreement with your interpretation of the wishes of the Board as to procedures to be followed by the Board Members, the Director and the Staff in the circumstances considered by the Board at its informal meeting on 10 April. I agree that the procedures should be adopted on a trial basis for the time being, as you suggest.

I should like however to add that I attach considerable importance to the potentialities of the Director and Staff for identifying and alerting the Board, and in turn appropriate operating agencies, to psychological challenges or opportunities - the full and timely significance of which the operating agencies may sometimes miss. Also it may happen that a single member of the Board will be alerted to an opportunity which indicates prompt and coordinated action of all operating agencies. This action should appropriately be effected through the coordinating mechanism of the Psychological Strategy Board. There may be occasions when the members of the Board by emergency decision can initiate time-saving action through the Director which will permit the United States to seize the initiative in a given situation which otherwise might be lost.

I consider that such procedures are a normal responsibility of the Psychological Strategy Board. Whether the action sought is tactical or strategic is immaterial. The purpose is to get prompt action. Furthermore, the purpose is not to put the Psychological Strategy Board into the operational field but to ensure that the operating agencies have such assistance and stimulus from the Psychological Strategy Board as, I believe, is contemplated in the President's Directive.

Sincerely yours,

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Wm. C. Foster

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Director

Psychological Strategy Board

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